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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

IN RE: APPLE INC. SMARTPHONE ANTITRUST LITIGATION

This Document Relates to: ALL ACTIONS

Civil Action No. 2:24-md-03113

(JXN) (LDW) MDL 3113

JOINT AGENDA AND STATUS REPORT

Pursuant to the Court's July 25, 2024 Case Management Order Number 1, ECF No. 7, and December 28, 2024 Text Order, ECF No. 60, Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs, Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs, and Direct Apple Watch Purchaser Plaintiff (collectively, "Plaintiffs") and Defendant Apple Inc. ("Apple" and, collectively with Plaintiffs, "the Parties"), respectfully submit the following Joint Status Report and Joint Agenda for the Initial Case Management Conference.

I. Joint Status Report

On March 21, 2024, the United States and sixteen states filed a civil lawsuit against Apple, accusing it of having violated Section 2 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 2), as well as various state competition laws. *United States v. Apple Inc.*, No. 2:24-cv-04055 (JXN) (LDW) (D.N.J.) (the "Government Action"). Beginning on March 22, 2024, Plaintiffs filed class actions on behalf of direct purchasers of iPhones ("DIP"), indirect iPhone purchasers ("IIP"), and direct Apple Watch purchasers ("DAWP") (collectively, the "Private Purchaser Actions"). On June 7, 2024, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation centralized the actions in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1407.²

¹ The complaint was subsequently amended on June 11, 2024. Case No. 2:24-cv-4055 (JXN) (LDW) ECF No. 51.

² On November 14, 2024, one of the DIP plaintiffs, Kyle Whiteside, filed a motion to remand his case to state court. Case No. 2:24-cv-9658 (JXN) (LDW) ECF No. 35. Apple filed its opposition on January 6, 2025, *id.* ECF No. 41, and Plaintiff Whiteside's reply is due on January 21, 2025. The Court has not scheduled oral argument.

On July 25, 2024, the Court issued Case Management Order Number 1 and consolidated the actions for pretrial purposes, ordering Plaintiffs to submit proposals for leadership. On October 17, 2024, the Court appointed leadership for the putative DAWP class and the putative IIP class (minus the proposed executive committee). ECF No. 34. After multiple rounds of briefing and with the oversight and assistance of the Court, the putative DIP and IIP classes each filed consensual leadership proposals, and the Court appointed leadership for the putative DIP class and an executive committee to support co-leads for the putative IIP class on December 19 and 27, respectively. ECF Nos. 57, 59. On December 28, 2024, the Court ordered class counsel for all three groups and Apple to submit a joint agenda and status report by January 10, 2025. ECF No. 60.

Meanwhile, Apple moved to dismiss the Government Action in August 2024. See Case No. 2:24-cv-04055 (JXN) (LDW) ECF No. 86. The Court held a hearing on the motion on November 20, 2024 and took the matter under submission.

The Court also ordered the parties in the Government Action to file a proposed Protective Order, ESI Protocol, and Source Code Protocol, and/or a joint letter presenting any disputes as to the terms of these documents, no later than September 20, 2024. *Id.* ECF No. 94. The parties in the Government Action filed a letter brief on September 20, 2024, outlining disputes regarding those items. *Id.* ECF No. 117. Subsequently, various non-parties objected to the parties' proposed protective

orders. *See, e.g., id.* ECF Nos. 154, 156, 157. The Court held a hearing on the dispute raised in the letter brief on October 10, 2024. *Id.* ECF No. 125.

On December 11, 2024, the Court set an initial scheduling conference for February 27, 2025 in the Government Action, and ordered the parties to submit a discovery plan seven days prior. Case No. 2:24-cv-04055 (JXN) (LDW) ECF No. 211.

II. Parties' Positions Regarding Next Steps

First, given that the issues raised by the private plaintiffs' complaints overlap in substantial part with those raised in the Government Action, the Parties agree that Plaintiffs shall file consolidated complaints—one consolidated complaint for the putative DIP class, one for the putative IIP class, and one for the putative DAWP class—thirty (30) days after the Court enters an order on the motion to dismiss the Government Action. The Parties further agree that they will discuss in good faith any potential changes to this timeline if the Court's order on Apple's motion to dismiss the Government Action warrants adjustment of this deadline.

Second, with respect to coordination among the related cases, Plaintiffs and Apple support coordination and streamlining of the proceedings wherever possible and will endeavor to coordinate with the Government in all feasible respects, including on implementation of early case management orders and discovery protocols.

Third, Plaintiffs in the Private Purchaser Actions propose, as an initial step, that Apple reproduce to the private Plaintiffs all documents, data, investigative deposition transcripts, and other materials obtained to date by the Government in connection with its investigation of and action against Apple to the extent such materials are in Apple's possession, custody, or control. Apple maintains that such a production is unwarranted at this time for several reasons. The Parties will continue to meet and confer regarding this issue and will apprise the Court if they are unable to resolve the disagreement.

III. Joint Agenda for Initial Case Management Conference

Having met and conferred, the Parties propose the following agenda for the first case management conference:

- Initial case management orders: Protective Order, ESI Protocol, Source
 Code Protocol, Expert Discovery Stipulation, Deposition Protocol;
- Coordination among the related cases; and
- Scheduling Order(s) for Initial Case Deadlines (based on the date the consolidated amended complaints are filed).

Dated: January 10, 2025 Respectfully Submitted,

s/LizaM. Walsh

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